

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 9 being independent.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 7, which has been cancelled. In addition, Claim 9 has been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. It is submitted that the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring an undue amount of further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Initially, Figure 9 was objected to for not being labelled as "Prior Art." In response to this objection, Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheet of Drawing, with Figure 9 labelled as "Prior Art." Approval of the drawing correction is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over admitted prior art in view of Masuda '720. The remaining dependent claims are rejected as allegedly being obvious over the previously cited art and further in view of Ueda '561 (Claims 4 and 8), Sheldon '268 (Claim 5) or Sheldon and Hanabusa (JP '264) (Claim 6). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to a laminating apparatus comprised of conveying means for conveying a laminating object, drying means for drying the laminating

object conveyed by the conveying means, and laminate means for effecting laminate processing on the dried laminating object. In addition, control means controls a temperature of the drying means so that the temperature of the drying means is adjusted to a predetermined temperature T1 before the laminating object arrives at the drying means and to a predetermined temperature T2 greater than the temperature T1 when the laminating object is being dried by the drying means. As amended, Claim 1 sets forth that the laminating object is a recording medium on which an image was formed by discharging ink from a recording head.

Applicant's admitted prior art, as shown in Figure 9, relates to a laminating apparatus that includes conveying means for conveying a recording medium 213, drying rollers 200 and 201, and laminating rollers 202 and 203. As acknowledged in the Office Action, the laminating apparatus in Figure 9 does not control the temperature of the drying rollers.

The secondary citation to Matsuda was cited to compensate for the deficiencies in the prior art laminating apparatus. Matsuda relates to an automatic film developing machine. As shown in Figure 3, a film is processed through developing tanks 2, 3 and 4 and subsequently through a drying station 5 where heaters 6 evaporate water and dry the film. Matsuda discloses a method of controlling a temperature within the drying section between a standby temperature and an operating temperature for the purpose of saving energy.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the laminating apparatus in Figure 9 in view of Matsuda in the manner proposed in the Office Action. Matsuda does not relate to a laminating apparatus, but merely provides temperature control of a drying section that receives camera film after passing through developing tanks. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that only through hindsight would one skilled in the art have modified the drying means in the laminating apparatus of Figure 9 to

include temperature control, as asserted in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

The tertiary citation to Ueda relates to a laminating apparatus and was cited for providing temperature and transport speed control and an electrothermal converter. The tertiary citation to Sheldon relates to a printing apparatus and was cited for its teaching of a heat transfer head. Finally, Hanabusa relates to a thermal recorder and was cited for its teaching of a heat transferring head with an electrothermal converter. These citations, however, fail to compensate for the deficiencies in the art discussed above with respect to Applicant's independent Claim 1. Therefore, without conceding the propriety of combining the art as proposed in the Office Action, such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections applied to Claims 4, 5, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 3-6 and 8 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

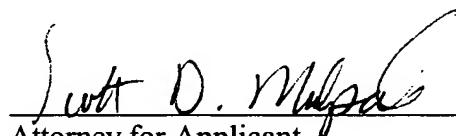
Independent Claim 9 is also submitted to be patentable over the cited art. Claim 9 relates to an image forming apparatus comprised of recording means, conveying means for conveying a recording medium, and drying means for drying the recording medium. In addition, laminate means effects laminate processing on the recording medium, and control means controls the temperature of the drawing means between a predetermined temperature T1 and a predetermined temperature T2. The control means adjusts the temperature of the drying

means to a predetermined temperature T2 after forming the image on the recording medium is completed. The proposed combinations of art do not teach or suggest such an image forming apparatus.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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